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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COMOR-D-20/5

21 December 1962

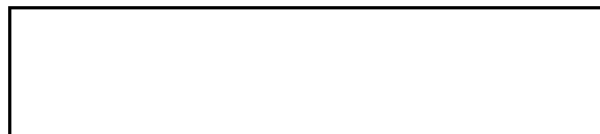
MEMORANDUM FOR:

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT:

Justification for Photographic
Reconnaissance of North Vietnam

On 19 December the Chairman polled the members by telephone and secured their agreement that he should on their behalf prepare a justification for photographic reconnaissance of North Vietnam for submission to the Special Group. His justification is attached for information and reference.



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James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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Justification for Photographic Reconnaissance
of North Vietnam

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1. U-2 photographic reconnaissance of North Vietnam has not been accomplished since April 1962 except for a mission [redacted] which provided information on the Hanoi area only. There are target areas in the northwest portion which, because of weather, have never been photographed.

2. It is highly desirable, if not critical, to obtain coverage of North Vietnam at this time in view of:

a. The obvious willingness of the Chinese to undertake foreign adventures as shown in the recent Sino-Indian border conflict, and

b. The dearth of our information on developments in North Vietnam and in South China as it relates to North Vietnam (the latter area has never been adequately photographed although a mission in South China is currently scheduled).

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